

Message

From: Bassler, Rachel [Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov]
Sent: 12/4/2018 7:33:53 PM
To: Faryan, Steve [faryan.steven@epa.gov]; Benning, Brad [benning.bradley@epa.gov]
CC: Ribordy, Michael [ribordy.mike@epa.gov]; Borries, Samuel [borries.samuel@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Interview and Data Request: American Prospect Magazine

Hi Steve and Brad,

Please see the reporter's highlighted question below, could you assist with a response?

Thanks,
Rachel

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
U.S. EPA Region 5
bassler.rachel@epa.gov
p: 312-886-7159
c: 312-914-3393

From: Singer, Joshua
Sent: Tuesday, December 04, 2018 1:15 PM
To: Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Interview and Data Request: American Prospect Magazine

From: Derrick Jackson [mailto:dzjphoto@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 04, 2018 12:15 PM
To: Singer, Joshua <Singer.Joshua@epa.gov>
Subject: Interview and Data Request: American Prospect Magazine

Dear Joshua:

My name is Derrick Jackson, a writer with the American Prospect Magazine and the Union of Concerned Scientists. I am doing a piece on staff concerns over the shrinking workforce of EPA, focusing on Region 5. I am doing the reporting on behalf of the Union of Concerned Scientists that The American Prospect is planning to run the piece in its Winter issue.

I have three questions:

One: The story includes the latest on lead and manganese near the SH Bell plant in SE Chicago. On the interactive map on your website. I tally 100 homes tested, with 63 positive for lead and 49 positive for manganese. But the Chicago Tribune story on Nov. 23 mentions 73 homes. Is there a discrepancy I should be worried about?

Two: The Region union tallies 120 departures/retirements/buyouts since the 2016 election. Do those losses have Regional Administrator Cathy Stepp alarmed about the office's ability to manage the polluted sites in six heavy industry states and the Great Lakes?

Three: Stepp's record in Wisconsin prior to EPA was highly criticized by environmentalists I talked with, and at Region 5, some staffers say she has quietly abetted regional staff shrinkage, the waiving of smog permits for Foxconn and sidelining the top national advisers for science and children's health.

My cell, if you wish to clarify anything, is 617-645-3833.

Thank you, Derrick

Derrick Z. Jackson

Co-Author of "Project Puffin: The Improbable Quest to Bring a Beloved Seabird Back to Egg Rock."
Yale University Press 2015 (Paperback, May 2016)

